

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

----- 106987

P 050820Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0126

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 10953

FOR: IOP/M, IPS/PF, IEA,
EA/IMS, INR/REA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE AGREEMENT

1. INTERIM PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL REPORTED BY ALL INDONESIAN NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND EDITORIALIZED BY MOST MAJOR ONES. GOI WELCOMED AGREEMENT, SAID ACTING SPOKESMAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEPT. 2.

2. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL IN MAJOR DAILY KOMPAS, SEPTEMBER 4: "AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL":

3. QTE EGYPT AND ISRAEL HAVE REACHED AN INTERIM PEACE AGREEMENT BY AGAIN USING SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AS AN INTERMEDIARY.

4. QTE THE STRONG REACTION OF YASSER ARAFAT, PLO LEADER, WHO CALLED THE AGREEMENT "AN IMPERIALIST TACTIC TO CRUSH THE STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIANS," IS UNDERSTANDABLE. THERE IS A RISK RELAXATION OF THE ISRAEL-ARAB CONFLICT MAY RESULT IN ABANDONMENT OF THE PALESTINIANS, WHO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MAIN CAUSES OF THE CONFLICT.

5. QTE WE GET THE IMPRESSION THAT EGYPT AND THE U.S. ARE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE AGREEMENT THAN ISRAEL. ISRAEL IS WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER EGYPT WILL FULFILL ITS
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PROMISES STIPULATED IN THE AGREEMENT WHILE ISRAEL IS

GIVING UP A STRATEGIC PART OF THE SINAI DESERT.

6. QTE GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE AGREEMENT CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A POSITIVE STEP; AT THE LEAST IT WILL LESSEN TENSION AND EVEN MAY BUILD UP MOMENTUM TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT. EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS A STRONG MOTIVATION FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S DECISION TO FOLLOW WAYS THAT ARE CREATING SUSPICION AMONG MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND EXTREME SECTORS IN THE ARAB GROUP. EGYPT NEEDS A PEACEFUL CLIMATE TO ACCELERATE ITS DEVELOPMENT, AS WELL AS TO RESTORE SEA TRAFFIC IN THE SUEZ CANAL. THE COUNTRY IS ALSO IN NEED OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COME FROM THE U.S.

6. QTE ALTHOUGH DIFFERENCES STILL EXIST BETWEEN THE ARABS, EGYPT SEEMS TO HAVE GAINED SUPPORT FROM SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN AND EVEN SYRIA. THERE IS ONE THING THAT WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE: THAT ARABIC LEADERS SUCH AS SADAT, ASSAAD, HUSSEIN AND KHALED HAVE FOUGHT STRONGLY AGAINST ISRAEL IN DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF ARABS, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THEY ALSO ARE RATIONAL. ISRAEL SHOULD REALIZE THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IF THAT IS WHAT THE ISRAELITES ARE LOOKING FOR.

7. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL IN MAJOR DAILY SINAR HARAPAN, SEPTEMBER 3: "WE WELCOME IT WITH CAUTIOUS ENTHUSIASM."

8. QTE WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT POLITICAL LEADERS IN EGYPT, ISRAEL AND AMERICA HAVE SHOWN THEIR COURAGE IN TAKING PROGRESSIVE STEPS TOWARD PEACE IN THE FACE OF STRONG ATTACKS AND CRITICISMS.

9. QTE BECAUSE OF THESE CRITICISMS, HOWEVER, WE MUST WELCOME THE AGREEMENT WITH CAUTIOUS ENTHUSIASM. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THESE CRITICISMS WILL BECOME A BARRIER TO THE NEXT STEP IN REACHING AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IF EGYPT BECOMES ISOLATED FROM OTHER POLITICAL POWERS IN THE ARAB WORLD, THE RESULT WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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FURTHER RADICALIZATION AND FRUSTRATION OF THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT. THIS QUESTION MUST BE RELATED TO THE NEXT ONE: WHETHER THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WILL SPEED UP OR, ON THE CONTRARY, FURTHER COMPLICATE A FINAL OVERALL AGREEMENT ON PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

10. QTE OUR CAUTION NOTWITHSTANDING, WE STILL HOPE THAT THIS NEW EVENT WILL BRING US CLOSER TO JUST AND DURABLE

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

11. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL IN SUARA KARYA,
SEPT. 3: "PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?":

12. QTE WHATEVER THE FUTURE MAY HOLD, ONE THING IS CERTAIN:
THE PRESENT EFFORTS FOR INTERIM PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
ARE ENCOURAGING. THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT WILL BE
VERY ADVANTAGEOUS RE

DEVELOPING COUNTRY THAT HAS BEEN
TORN AND DESTROYED BY WAR. THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ
CANAL GIVES NEW PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY. WE HOPE
THAT THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT CONSTITUTES THE BEGINNING
OF SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
MAY OUR HOPE NOT BE WRONG.

13. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL IN DAILY
BERITA BUANA SEPT. 4: "THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE":

14. QTE THE MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEM HAS NOT YET BEEN
SOLVED, ALTHOUGH ISRAEL OFFICIALLY HAS AGREED TO RETURN
ARAB TERRITORIES TAKEN SINCE 1967. THERE STILL IS
"THE PALESTINIAN ISSUED."

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W
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P 050820Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0127

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FOR: IOP/M, IPS/PF, IEA,
EA/IMS, INR/REA

15. QTE THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR IS VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT
THIS ISSUE. ISRAELIS PANIC WHEN THIS ISSUE IS DISCUSSED,

BECAUSE PSYCHOLOGICALLY THEY ARE NOT YET READY FOR IT.

16. QTE THE MEANING OF THE PHRASE "TO RESTORE THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN NATION," IS NOT YET CLEAR. IF THIS MEANS THAT THE PALESTINIANS OF ARABIC ORIGIN SHOULD BE REPATRIATED TO THEIR ORIGINAL TERRITORY, WHICH IS NOW KNOWN AS ISRAEL, AND ESTABLISH A NEW STATE THERE, THIS WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO THE LIQUIDATION OF THE PRESENT STATE OF ISRAEL, WHICH IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE, EVEN FOR EGYPT AND THE ARABS.

17. QTE SO WHERE SHOULD THE STATE OF PALESTINE BE ESTABLISHED? THIS CAN BECOME A BASIC QUESTION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST OF THE FUTURE.

18. FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL IN ENGLISH DAILY THE INDONESIA TIMES, SEPT. 4: "A SHIFT OF THE BATTLE FRONT":

19. QTE THE SIGNING OF THE INTERIM PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS MUCH PROGRESS, BUT NOT YET AN END.

20. QTE "FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE PRESENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 200 U.S. TECHNICIANS IN THE SINAI AND ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID IS A MATTER OF ANXIETY, LEST UNCLASSIFIED

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THEY LEAD TO A GREATER PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE VIETNAM DISASTER ALSO BEGAN WITH SUCH A MINOR INVOLVEMENT."

21. QTE "YITZAK RABIN'S STRUGGLE IN THE KNESSET MAY BECOME THE FIERCEST OF ALL. PREMIER YITZAK RABIN MUST BE ABLE TO CONVINCE OPPOSING FACTIONS THAT HIS IS THE BEST COURSE IN FACING AN OVERGROWING NEGATIVE WORLD REACTION TO ISRAEL'S NEGLIGENCE IN LIVING UP UN'S TO THE RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING HER TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL ARAB OCCUPIED TERRITORIES."

22. QTE "EGYPT'S SIDE OFF THE SITUATION IS NOT SO CRITICAL. TO JUSTIFY ITS CONCESSIONS WILL NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT. THE BASIC UNDERSTANDING WAS ALREADY THERE, NAMELY THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING AMONG ARABS THAT THE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL IS AN UNDENIABLE FACT. THUS ANNIHILATION OF ISRAEL ALREADY HAS BEEN DROPPED AS AN OBJECTIVE. THERE REMAIN THE PROBLEMS OF PALESTINE, AND WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ALTHOUGH THIS IS AND INTERIM AGREEMENT AND OF MILITARY NATURE, IT MAY LEAD TO FURTHER POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS TO PUSH ISRAEL BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL BORDERS ON THE SINAI, JORDAN, AND SYRIA FRONTS. IT ALSO MAY BE A PRELUDE TO THE SOLUTION OF THE

KEY MIDDLE EASTERN CONTENTION, THE PALESTINE ISSUE..
INDISPUTABLY THIS DIPLOMATIC MOVE OF PRESIDENT ANWAR
SADAT WILL STRENGTHEN THE ARAB'S STAND. THE ONLY
REJECTIONS TO BE EXPECTED WILL BE FROM THE RADICALS."

23. QTE "SO FAR OBSERVERS HAVE TENDED TO OVERLOOK
RUSSIA'S SILENCE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT MAY BE EXPECTED
THAT LATER ON RUSSIA MAY FEEL IT'S TIME TO PLAY A ROLE
HAS COME. WHAT WILL THAT ROLE BE?

24. QTE FOR THE TIME BEING WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND
SEE. ONE THING IS SURE HOWEVER: THE BATTLE WILL SHIFT
TO THE HOMEFRONTS OF THE RESPECTIVE NEGOTIATING COUNTRIES."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART10953
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750307-0609
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750980/aaaactes.tel
Line Count: 237
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, XF
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006